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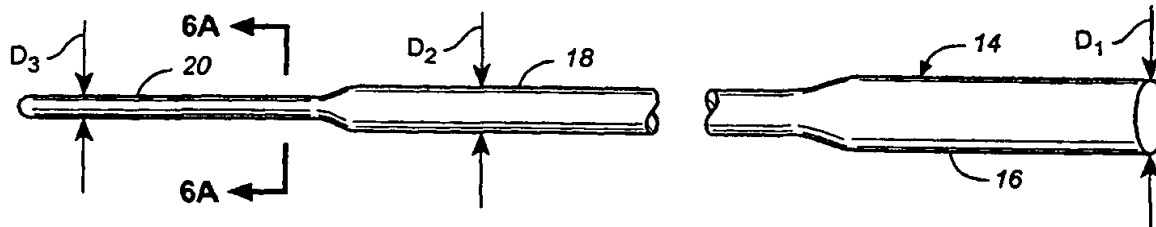
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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/29329</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 9 December 1999 (09.12.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 60/111,892 10 December 1998 (10.12.98) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MICRO THERAPEUTICS, INC. [US/US]; 2 Goodyear, Irvine, CA 92618 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ASHBY, Mark, P. [US/US]; 10 BelCrest, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 (US). STRAUSS, Brian, M. [US/US]; 20592 Porter Ranch Road, Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agent: KREBS, Robert, E.; Burns, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, LLP, P.O. Box 1404, Alexandria, VA 22313-1404 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published With international search report.</p>

(54) Title: IMPROVED GUIDEWIRE



(57) Abstract

In the manufacture of a guidewire for medical applications, a mandrel (14) is formed using a wound wire having a first diameter (D1). The wound wire is straightened and cut to appropriate size. Subsequently, the wire is ground down, using center-less grinding, to one or more sections all having diameters (D2, D3) which are less than the first diameter (D1). Optionally, the mandrel (14) thus formed is coated with a hydrophilic coating, and a radiopaque marker affixed thereto.